

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

The ~~[[lest]]~~ least expensive ink coaters are in the form of ink foils. The foils are comprised of two superimposed strips of polyester film with a coating of viscous ink solution disposed between the strips. The ink is composed of carbon black and lanolin. See Fig. 1 of the drawings which illustrates a carbon pigmented ink and lanolin solution 10 deposited on a thin plastic film 12 and Fig. 2 which illustrates the ink sandwiched between the lower film strip 12 and an upper film strip 16. The strips, generally made of Mylar® (Mylar is a registered trademark of E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company), are of the same length with a margin 14 at one end of each strip on which ink is not deposited during the manufacturing process. The inkless margins 14 are apparently designed to allow a user to separate the two strips. After the layers 12 and 16 of film are peeled apart, one or both of the strips may be placed on a flat surface such as a table or hood of a patrol vehicle with the ink side up so that the ink may be transferred to the subject's fingerprint area in a conventional manner. The user thus has one or both surfaces from which to ink the fingers, palms, feet of a person to be fingerprinted. The tackiness of the ink keeps the strips intact until they are peeled apart by hand. The lanolin, because it has a melting point of about 107 degrees F and a softening point much less than that, is problematic because in warm environments the ink can migrate and impair the quality of the coating as well as leak out from between the strips of film. Typically, this type of carbon pigmented ink stains the skin severely and is difficult to remove because the tackiness needed to keep the coating and film intact also makes the ink adhere strongly to the skin. The typical foils can be hard to open because of the difficulty grasping the separate marginal areas 14 of the foil

strips.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

With respect to the method of making the disposable applicator with the inkless composition therein, I provide two substantially nonpermeable thin film strips of plastic foil approximately the same width with one strip being slightly longer than the other. For example, the strips may be cut from a suitable stock material such as a Mylar® plastic strip having a thickness of .001" - .005" and preferably within the range of .002" to .003". I also provide an inkless fingerprint composition with the constituents discussed above. The composition is heated to liquify the semisolid composition and then coated on one (or both) of the strips leaving a peripheral margin, including the area under the pull-tabs free of the composition. The strips are then superimposed on one another with the inkless composition sandwiched therebetween and left to cool to room temperature.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

The inkless fingerprint composition includes a color former which may be one or more of the ~~transition~~ transition metal salts selected from the groups 5A-8A, 1B-5B and 7B of the periodic Table of Elements. More specifically while salts of iron, e.g., ferric chloride, have also been found to be very satisfactory, salts of titanium, vanadium, chromium, magnesium, cobalt, nickel, copper, zirconium, zinc, niobium, molybdenum, silver, tantalum and tungsten have been found satisfactory.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

A nonstaining ink which may be used in my invention is described in the '556 patent discussed earlier. The '556 patent is incorporated herein by reference. The nonstaining ink is formulated by dissolving one or more alcohol soluble dyes in one or more fatty acid esters which have at least one available hydroxyl group as described in detail in the '556 patent. It should be noted that the formulations described in that patent would need to be slightly modified to be in a semisolid state at ambient temperature by increasing the viscosity of the solvent. The dye preferably is a metal complexed dye, e.g., complexed with a polyvalent transition metal such as iron, chromium, copper or zinc. Three of the fatty acids may be glyceryl mononunoleate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

A second sheet of foil material 48, e.g., a 2 mil Mylar® plastic sheet, from a storage roll (not shown) is pressed over the top of the lower sheet 44 as the two sheets travel between rollers 50 and 52 to sandwich the inkless composition 31 in the form of separated rectangular layers between the two sheets as illustrated. A rotating cutter 54 in conjunction with a lower roller 56 cuts the sheets into individual rectangular sections each section 58 containing the inkless composition between the upper and lower foil strips. The superimposed strips 58 may then be cooled to room temperature, trimmed, if necessary, and packaged for subsequent shipment.